

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 /127 W

----- 057850

R 101543Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1010

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, XA, NI, OATUU

SUBJECT: SIX-MAN OATUU DELEGATION TO BE FINANCED BY FMG

REF: LAGOS 6674 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: LOCAL NEWS REPORTS SEPT. 10 INDICATES FMG IS FINANCING
67-DAY AFRICA TOUR BY SIX-MAN OATUU DELEGATION, LED BY
NIGERIAN ULC GENERAL SECRETARY ODEYEMI. OTHERS ARE REPORTEDLY
KABUE (ZAMBIA), RAPHAEL BANABU (TOGO), SIDDO (NIGER), SAMBA
(UPPER VOLTA), AND AN UNNAMED MOROCCAN UNIONIST. TOUR STARTS
SEPT. 22 AND WILL INCLUDE ALL INDEPENDENT AFRICAN COUNTRIES.
END SUMMARY

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1. ODEYEMI, IN EXCLUSIVE PRESS INTERVIEW ANNOUNCING TOUR, SAID

OBJECTIVE IS TO EXPLAIN ROLE AND FUNCTION OF OATUU QUOTE OFFICIALLY UNQUOTE TO AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS; SOLICIT THEIR AID IN SOLVING INITIAL OATUU PROBLEMS; COLLECT FINANCIAL PLEDGES MADE EARLIER BY ZAMBIA, GHANA AND TANZANIA; AND OBTAIN MORE SIGNATURES TO OATUU CHARTER FROM CENTRAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. ON LATTER POINT, ODEYEMI CLAIMS ONLY 27 OF 41 OAU MEMBER NATIONS HAVE SIGNED OATUU CHARTER. ODEYEMI REPORTEDLY STATED HE AND OATUU SECGEN AKUMU WILL SERVE IN OATUU'S ACCRA SECRETARIAT ON A FULL-TIME BASIS WHEN ALL NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS ARE COMPLETED. MEANWHILE, ODEYEMI IS TO SUPERVISE SECRETARIAT FROM LAGOS IN HIS CAPACITY AS OATUU ASSISTANT SECGEN IN CHARGE OF FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION.

2. ODEYEMI REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED GRATITUDE OF OATUU TO FMG FOR AGREEING TO BEAR COST OF THIS TOUR. HE CLAIMED OATUU BIRTH WAS AT INITIATIVE OF FMG MINISTER OF LABOR CHIEF ANTHONY ENAHORO. ODEYEMI THEN APPEALED TO AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS TO FOLLOW NIGERIA'S EXAMPLE SO THAT OATUU WOULD BE ABLE TO GET OFF THE GROUND BEFORE RELYING ON AFFILIATE DUES.

3. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FMG IS CONSIDERING ISSUING ODEYEMI A DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT FOR PURPOSES OF THIS TRIP.

4. COMMENT: FMG DECISION TO FINANCE ODEYEMI'S TOUR APPEARS FROM HERE AS FURTHER BID TO ENSURE NIGERIAN LEADERSHIP ROLE IN OATUU. BELIEF HERE IS THAT OATUU SECGEN AKUMU WILL BE MADE MINISTER IN KENYA, THUS LEAVING TOP OATUU POST TO ODEYEMI; AND FMG OBVIOUSLY WANTS ODEYEMI IN BEST POSITION TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP. AS DOMESTIC SIDE-EFFECT, DECISION TO FUND ODEYEMI TOUR SEEMS LIKELY TO BE TAKEN LOCALLY AS SIGN OF FMG TILT TOWARDS ULC AS MAIN CENTRAL LABOR ORGANIZATION IN NIGERIA. ACTUAL FMG INTENTION IN THIS REGARD STILL NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, BUT PROSPECT WILL BEAR CLOSE WATCHING.
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